

Service for You
Let T.-D. Information Bureau
Answer Your Questions

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Girl Left You?
Use a T.-D. "Help Wanted" Ad
and Get Another

67TH YEAR VOLUME 67 NUMBER 356 RICHMOND, VA., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1917. — FIFTY-TWO PAGES WEATHER: PAGE 11 — FAIR PRICE, FIVE CENTS

INFLUENCE OF U. S. PARAMOUNT, SAYS COLONEL HOUSE

Head of American Mission to Interallied Conference Returns Home.
HIGHLY PLEASED WITH WORK ACCOMPLISHED
Reports Dispatched by Special Messenger to State Department at Washington.

THINGS BROUGHT TO A FOCUS

Declares Both in France and England Morale of Fighting Forces and People Is Splendid.

(By Associated Press)
NEW YORK, December 15.—What the American mission was sent to accomplish in the interallied war conference in Paris "has been successfully and satisfactorily done," was the message brought to the American people by Colonel E. M. House, head of the mission, who returned to the United States to-day with four of his colleagues.

The return of the party was void of ostentation. After advising the press of the mission's arrival, Colonel House motored to his home, where he later received newspaper men, and announced that the mission's reports already had been dispatched by special messenger to the State Department at Washington.

These reports, which included that of Colonel House, will be supplemented by the colonel's personal report to President Wilson. He said he would go to Washington on Monday.

"In England and France the influence of the United States is paramount," said Colonel House. "In both countries the morale is splendid; the best I have observed on any of my three trips abroad since the beginning of the war."

DETERMINATION TO WIN
HE SAYS IS ADMIRABLE
"You mean the morale of the fighting forces?" Colonel House was asked. "No, I mean the morale of the men in uniform and the people as a whole," he replied. "Their determination to win without thought of the cost is admirable."

Through the elimination of speech-making and entertainment, both of a public and private nature, Colonel House said the interallied war conference accomplished its full purpose at three sittings. At their termination, he said, the supreme war council, an outgrowth of these deliberations, completed its work in four weeks' time—two weeks being spent in London and two weeks in Paris.

The Prime Ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy and Colonel House, together with their military aids, were the only ones participating in the supreme war council.

ASSIGNED TO MEMBERSHIP ON VARIOUS COMMITTEES
The others who had taken part in the first conference were assigned to membership on various committees, and thus every one had a specific task to accomplish. The committees dealt with food, embargo, finance and other subjects.

"The council brought things to a focus—up to that time there was no co-ordination and things were not going well," said the colonel. "Every one worked well, hard and cordially."

In reply to questions as to what the council decided to do with reference to various matters, Colonel House said the deliberations were concerned primarily with the economic situation. He declared what had been decided upon with reference to this situation would not mean the introduction of any measures "radically different" from those now operative in the United States.

AIMS WHILE ABROAD
Colonel House said he did not discuss war aims while abroad. In his estimation, he declared, one nation's aim is as good as another's as to what Russia might be expected to do. Gathering of data in preparation for the eventual peace conference was purely incidental and entirely aside from the main purpose of the mission.

Asked regarding the progress of General Pershing's work, Colonel House said:

"His task is really more difficult than the people know, but he is doing admirably. Our men—our fighting men and those who have been sent abroad on other missions since our entry into the war—have made a highly favorable impression."

American representation at any further councils of an interallied nature was entirely a matter for President Wilson's decision, Colonel House stated, and he knew nothing of the President's intentions respecting the return of himself or other delegates to such conferences.

MEMBERS OF PARTY
RETURNING WITH HOUSE
Accompanying Colonel House on his return to-day were General Tasker H. Bliss, Vance C. McCormick, chairman of the war trade board; Bainbridge Colby, of the United States Shipping Board; and Thomas N. Perkins, of the priority board. Oscar T. Crosby, assistant secretary of the Treasury; Dr. A. E. Taylor, representing the food administration; and Paul D. Cravath remained in London, Colonel House said, primarily to complete some details "respecting priority matters."

Colonel House paid a tribute to his fellow-members of the mission in this statement:

"I wish to record my appreciation. Experienced Auto Mechanic Wanted. Bring reference, 9 A. M. Monday. Kline Kar Sales Co.

Organize War Council of the War Department

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, December 15.—Organization of a war council of the War Department to co-ordinate all matters of supplies for the armies at home and overseas and the military relations between the armies in the field and the department was announced to-night by Secretary Baker.

Composing the council are the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of War, the chief of staff and Major-General Henry G. Sharpe, quartermaster-general; Major-General Erasmus M. Weaver, chief of coast artillery; Major-General William Crozier, chief of ordnance, and Major-General Enoch H. Crowder, provost-marshal-general.

Mr. Baker's announcement said that when General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff, who participated in the interallied war conference, returns from Europe he will bring to the new organization here knowledge of conditions which affect all branches of the service, and that from time to time members will be ordered to the front to make observations for the information of the council.

The secretary said the council will act through the chief of staff of the army, and will not take over the specialized duties of the general staff or the war college.

HOOVER DENIES SHORTAGE IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO HIM

Spreckels's Charge as to Sugar Famine Vigorously Denied by Food Administrator.

SUGAR INTERESTS ARE "SORE"

Refiners' Recent Curtailment of Profits, He Says, and Are Trying to "Panic" Administration—Asks Sugar Where Sugar Is.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, December 15.—Charges made by Claus Spreckels, president of the Federal Sugar Refining Company, before a Senate investigating committee that the food administration is responsible for a sugar shortage, drew from Food Administrator Hoover to-night a vigorous attack on Mr. Spreckels.

An open intimation is made by Mr. Hoover that Mr. Spreckels's testimony was inspired by the fact that the food administration cut profits in sugar transactions.

"It requires no proof from me," said Hoover, "to establish that Mr. Spreckels, a leading sugar refiner, is sore at the food administration and would like to see it destroyed."

"I realize that Mr. Spreckels's balance sheet will not look so good next year as last, for refiners' profits have been regulated. Furthermore, his balance sheet would have looked better this year if the price of last August had not been reduced and held fast, in the face of a partial shortage that promised a fair opportunity for 30-cent sugar and much increased profits."

"Mr. Spreckels, therefore, has reason to feel badly. There are other citizens who will feel the same way, no doubt, and no doubt can entertain the public by assailing the food administration. While many feel badly, still the vast majority of men and women of our business community and of our farmers are sacrificing their profits daily to the nation's necessities without complaint, for many are sacrificing more than their money—their sons."

SUPPLY 70 PER CENT OF NORMAL CONSUMPTION

"We have had two months of partial sugar shortage—October and November—and also will have December before relief from the new crop. The American people have had 500,000 tons of sugar in these two months—that is, 70 per cent of their normal supplies in each month, and if cars are available, they will have 70 per cent in December."

"This 70 per cent is twice the French ration. In the meantime we have given France a good part of the 30 per cent and are proud of it. This supply to France was given deliberately, and the American people were told of it at the time. We have also agreed to draw 10,000 tons for our friends in Canada."

"As to the food administration stopping the sources of supply, the fact that all available supplies have been brought here that ships and cars could bring, and that it has already been eaten, is sufficient answer."

"If Mr. Spreckels will tell us where there is any sugar to-day that ships can be obtained to carry or cars can be obtained to deliver, it will be delivered at once with the same resolution that we have requisitioned or distributed over 60,000,000 pounds of embargoed sugar since October 1. In the meantime, the 900,000 tons of sugar in Java is as remote as cheese out of the moon, unless we wish to take bread ships from our own soldiers and the allies to provide ourselves with candy."

ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY IS GIVEN BY SPRECKELS

Additional testimony on causes of the sugar shortage in the East, which he has assigned to the food administration's fixed import price, was given to-day by Mr. Spreckels when he again took the stand before the Senate investigating committee.

Mr. Spreckels, on resuming his testimony, said he had protested to Food Administrator Hoover against including refiners on the international committee, created by the food administration to purchase all raw sugars for refiners. Spreckels declared that the actions of the committee worked against his firm, and to the benefit of the American Sugar Refining Company.

The State Department had a hand in

COUNTRY SHIVERS FOR LACK OF COAL

Officials Make Redoubled Efforts to Relieve Supplies Held on the Tracks.

THOUSANDS OF PLANTS IDLE EXPECT 15,000 NEW NAMES

Reports From Many Sections Show That Actual Fuel Famine Prevails.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, December 15.—Reports of almost nation-wide suffering, due to lack of coal, stirred fuel administration officials to-day to redoubled efforts to release supplies held on tracks by car congestion.

Orders went forth to fuel administration representatives in the Middle West to make every attempt to move coal to points in many instances declared to be facing actual coal famine. A. W. Thompson, chairman of the operating committee of Eastern railroads, was called into conference by Fuel Administrator Garfield for suggestions as to relieving the situation.

After his conference with Dr. Garfield, Mr. Thompson said the situation was serious, but that his committee was making great progress towards relieving congestion in the Pittsburgh terminal territory.

Fuel Administrator Johnson, of Ohio, reported from Cleveland to-night that he had started sixty carloads of coal into that city, where 100,000 men were idle to-day because of the shutting down of plants lacking power. Mr. Johnson said he would supply householders first, even if it forced industries to close down.

WIDESPREAD SUFFERING THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Reports from New York to-day told of widespread suffering in the city and State. The New York City board of health telegraphed that thousands of children were cold and that an epidemic of pneumonia was feared.

At Quincy, Mass., the Fore River plant of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Company is running on short time because there is no coal to be had, and the government arsenal at Watertown, Mass., will shut down December 18 if coal is not obtained. In Beaver Valley, Pa., women and children were reported to be housed in churches and schools that they might keep warm.

"Street car systems in many towns also are threatened with suspension because of lack of fuel."

At the Department of Labor it was declared that the labor situation now is particularly favorable and can in no way be charged with responsibility for the coal famine. Only three or four disputes are pending between operators and miners, and none of them, it was said, has more than a local significance. One prominent operator was quoted as having reported to the department that the labor situation was "A No. 1."

VIGOROUS EFFORTS MADE TO RELIEVE NEW YORK

NEW YORK, December 15.—Vigorous efforts were made to-day to relieve New York's coal shortage, but results were not expected to be apparent before Monday. In the meantime, it was estimated, between 250,000 and 300,000 families are urgently in need of fuel to warm their homes.

Large forces of men were employed to work to-night and to-morrow digging out the frozen masses of coal at New Jersey terminals, where some estimates place the supply at more than 100,000 tons. With this tonnage at the city's door, not more than 10,000 tons were distributed to-day, although the normal daily consumption is twice that amount.

With the temperature far under the freezing point, suffering among the poor increased. In many of the large downtown office buildings heat was shut off at noon.

According to railroad officials, coal is being received at the New Jersey terminals in "unprecedented quantities," but lack of labor has hindered transportation to New York. Wrecking crews were put to work unloading coal to-day, and the task will continue all day Sunday, it was said.

The general fuel situation is regarded as the most serious in the history of the city. Hundreds of tenements and homes are without heat, some factories have been compelled to shut down, and churches, schools, theaters and public halls are affected.

The shortage of labor here has increased the problem of removing snow. While about 14,000 persons are needed

(Continued on Second Page.)

CHURCHES TO SOUND RED CROSS MESSAGE

Great Membership Campaign Will Be Launched From Pulpits To-Day.

THOUSANDS OF PLANTS IDLE EXPECT 15,000 NEW NAMES

No Large Contributions Will Be Sought in Nation-Wide Drive.

The week preceding Christmas was in the Red Cross membership campaign in Richmond, which starts to-day and continues until Christmas Eve. It is now members—thousands of them—not big donations, that the local chapter wants. One dollar pays for an annual membership, and those in charge of the drive are confident that between 10,000 and 15,000 new names will be added during the week's intensive drive. The Richmond chapter enters the campaign with 28,000 members.

The week preceding Christmas was selected as the time in which to increase the membership of the Red Cross throughout the country by 10,000,000 members because the War Council believes that the Red Cross and Christmas spring from the same spirit. At the present time the Red Cross has 5,000,000 members. "On this, our first Christmas in the war, we want the Red Cross symbol to add not a spirit of dejection, but the thought of serious purpose and sacrifice which, through accomplishment, it represents," the council has declared.

Campaign Director H. G. Boykin has mapped out elaborate plans for enrolling every one in Richmond not already a member of the Red Cross. Church congregations will have the Red Cross message brought to their attention to-day, and beginning to-morrow speakers will appear in theaters, schools and elsewhere to make short talks on the subject. The speakers' bureau is under the direction of Morton G. Thalheimer, assisted by Irving May.

RED CROSS PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY MAYOR AINSLEE

Mayor Ainslee has issued the following proclamation: "To the People of Richmond—Male and Female, White and Black—Who Do Not Belong to the Red Cross: "It is the duty of every individual American of whatever age, color or condition, to do his utmost to help win this war. Don't mistakenly think it is not your war. It is your war, and the side of the allies is your side. Every principle of the government under which you live, and every ideal of your civilization must be won again in this war to be preserved. If I'm wrong in the case of any reader of this, then that person belongs in the central empires or Turkey, or in an American internment camp. The American Red Cross is doing the greatest work for the relief of suffering humanity ever done by man since the beginning of the world. It is supplying nearly 4,000 hospitals in France. It is saving the lives of thousands of men, women and children daily. It is taking mutilated, helpless human wrecks and making them over into self-supporting men. It is collecting and preserving intact the scattered families of the men who are standing between you and the German artillery. High military commanders say that the effect of all this on the morale of the men at the front is equal to the presence of another million and a half men in the trenches. Don't you want to be a part of this? Don't you want to help to provide comfort, hospitals, and medicines and doctors and nurses for the sick, the mutilated, the dying? If you were there in that condition would you want those things for yourself? Won't you be ashamed to have to say when the war is over: 'I didn't even join the Red Cross? You know you will. Then don't put it off. Join now. The dues are \$1 a year, and no more. The Red Cross should have 50,000 members in Richmond. Let us serve notice to our enemies that the American people as a whole are in this war. Respectfully, (Signed) "GEORGE AINSLEE, Mayor."

"Any one who is puzzled over certain gifts to be given Christmas can solve the problem easily enough by giving Red Cross memberships," said Director Boykin. "It is not an extravagant gift, and there are hundreds of people who will, without doubt, avail themselves of this opportunity to assist in bringing to suffering humanity the Christmas ministry of good will and help."

One of the features of the campaign

(Continued on Page Twelve.)

BOLSHEVIKI DENY EX-CZAR ESCAPES

Final Offer of Peace From Kaiser Foreshadowed in Berlin Dispatch

LONDON, December 15.—A "final offer of peace" from the Kaiser was foreshadowed in an unofficial dispatch from Berlin to-day. It was said that the Emperor intended to make such an offer in his forthcoming Christmas message, and that he would add the responsibility for further bloodshed would rest upon the allies.

The news was fully credited here. It recalled the statement made four days ago that "it is regarded as more than probable the Teutonic allies are drafting a 'declaration of the world,' pointing to the offer of a year ago, reiterating their willingness to conclude peace, and adding that, pending a favorable reply from the entente, they will try to force it in the west."

From the western allies the offer, if it comes, will receive a flat refusal. It was authoritatively announced to-day that Premier Lloyd George will reiterate in Parliament next Thursday his latest speech, in which he declared emphatically that only victory can bring about a secure and lasting peace.

With her maximum military strength assembled in the west, Ger-

many is intoxicated with the triumphant feeling that a military victory can be gained within the near future, either during the winter or in the spring. Hindenburg and Ludendorff, the crown prince, the Junkers and all militarists are once more firmly in the saddle.

But, at the same time, there are many high in the empire's councils who believe the mere menace of a big blow in the west may bring peace—men who fear the terrible reaction of the casualties that such a supreme clash would entail.

Among these Emperor William is known to stand foremost. With scarcely a home in the empire that does not mourn one or more dead, with hardly a family that does not count one or more cripples—crippled by the war—among its members, the vision of another million men killed or maimed (the maximum cost of an Armageddon in the west) brings home to the Emperor grave forebodings.

Impelled by these motives, clamored by the desire to be able to say to his people, "I have not my fault; I offered peace," the Kaiser is fully expected to do what the Berlin dispatch says he will do.

"OPPORTUNITIES" ARE PROMPTLY SUBSCRIBED

Generous Richmond Public Sends \$2,470 to Care for Those in Need.

TWENTY FAMILIES CARED FOR

Surplus of More Than \$50 Will Be Turned Over to Associated Charities for Next Most Needy Cases on Its Relief Rollo.

The home-sustaining charity of this city, which loves its good name better than the essence of selfishness, pushed the "Opportunity" campaign over the mark set, with a surplus of \$3, before the middle of the afternoon yesterday. With \$2,470 sought by the Associated Charities to make "memories that bless and burn" in twenty homes and \$2,470 in response to the appeal already in the hands of the association, appreciation and gratitude over Richmond's seizing the twenty opportunities for constructive work in ill-favored families are boiling in the hearts of every man, woman and child in any way interested in this home-mission work.

It will be remembered that the first "Ten Opportunities" were accepted in a lot by one citizen, who sent The Times-Dispatch his check for \$1,248 on the second day of the campaign. In the five remaining days of the "Opportunity" week the people of the city have accepted the second "Ten Opportunities" in genuine Samaritan style. Beside numerous small and medium checks, which were as honored as any one of larger denomination the funds were increased by one \$168 contribution from a woman whose vision was not dimmed by glasses darkly; by one \$50 check from Mrs. George S. Thomas, and by \$20 checks from T. Elwood Tragle and Mrs. W. Brydon Tennant, and quite a number of \$10 contributions.

CONTRIBUTIONS ALREADY EXCEEDED MAXIMUM ASKED

The issue of The Times-Dispatch yesterday morning announced that only a fraction over \$130 was needed to meet all requests. But by 3 o'clock \$180.50 had been received by the business department of the paper. Other contributions may yet arrive. If so, that, in addition to the \$50 surplus already acknowledged, will be acknowledged and turned over to the Associated Charities, which will see that it is equitably distributed among families that have been investigated and found to be worthy the generosity of the citizens of Richmond.

Almost every contribution received by The Times-Dispatch was accompanied by a letter praising the motive and the object of the "Opportunity"

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

ADMINISTRATOR AFTER GREEDY COAL DEALERS

Will Ask Denial of Transportation for Those Who Charge Poor Too Much.

LOCAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Blair, Leigh, Reed and Price Chosen to Aid in Remedying Fuel Situation in Richmond—Lightless Nights Begin To-Night.

Following reports that certain coal dealers in Richmond were charging at the rate of \$20 per short ton for coal delivered to poor people who cannot afford to purchase more than 100 pounds at a time, Food Administrator Byrd yesterday announced that he would take steps to deny shipment of further stock to such dealers. This announcement was simultaneous with that of the appointment of A. Belne Blair (chairman), E. G. Leigh, Jr., William T. Reed and James H. Price as the Richmond fuel committee.

The committee is to aid Administrator Byrd in alleviating the distress incident to fuel shortage here and to co-operate with him in searching for evidence against those alleged to be charging exorbitant prices. The committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, when it will perfect organization and begin its duties.

The first matter to be brought before the committee will be the charges against local coal dealers. Of these charges, Mr. Byrd says:

"It has been brought to my attention that one or two small retailers of Richmond are charging \$1 per 100 pounds for coal to poor people who cannot purchase in large quantities. I have obtained the names of parties who will testify to this effect and full information will be reported to the Richmond fuel commission when organized."

WILL ASK RAILROADS TO REFUSE DELIVERY

"I desire to state that if any retailer continues to exact exorbitant profits and take advantage of the existing situation, orders will be issued to the railroads to prohibit the receipt of coal by such retailer. Such matters will be under the control of the Richmond commission, who will investigate the local situation and make such rules and regulations as may be deemed advisable and necessary to effect an equitable distribution of coal at reasonable prices. I am very glad to say, however, that, with the exception of complaint against one or two retail dealers, the retail coal dealers in Richmond are patriotically co-operating with the administration and are conducting their business as in normal times. I am convinced that the majority of retailers will approve of exposing the one or two dealers who are endeavoring to take advantage of the existing shortage."

As an evidence of the gravity of the coal situation throughout the entire country, Mr. Byrd is in receipt of a telegram from the national administration containing an order which will make it necessary for all electric signs of every kind to be discontinued absolutely and completely on every Thursday and Sunday night, beginning to-day. The order is as follows:

"Order of fuel administrator, taking effect December 15, cancels present order regulating time advertising signs shall be lighted. In its place, all signs of every kind, including merchants' signs, theater signs, also display lighting on buildings and elsewhere, hotel signs and advertising signs are ordered discontinued completely on Thursday and Sunday nights of each week."

"On these same nights stores not open for business must not show inside lights more than are necessary for safety, and municipalities with clubs."

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

REPORT RECEIVED FROM PETROGRAD STIRS INTEREST

Effect, if True, on Future of Russia, Can Scarcely Be Surmised.

LENINE-TROTSKY COURSE PUZZLING TO OBSERVERS

Russo-German Peace Negotiations Said to Be Proceeding Apace.

ITALIAN FRONT STILL INTACT

Although Almost Ceaselessly Assailed in Mountain Region, Lino Holds Well.

(By Associated Press)
Nicholas Romanoff, former Emperor of Russia, deposed last March by the revolutionists, and for several months in confinement at Tobolsk, Siberia, is reported to have made his escape.

The report, unlike the previous rumors to this effect, came through the Bolshevik headquarters in Petrograd, but a few hours later it was officially denied by Bolshevik leaders that Nicholas had escaped.

Previous reports of the escape of Nicholas had him making his way out of Siberia through Harbin, Manchuria. The route to Harbin is a long one, however, and he would have 4,000 miles to travel before reaching the Pacific coast from Tobolsk, although that place itself is some 1,500 miles east of Moscow. There remains the possibility that Siberia itself might be a safe asylum for him for the time being, as that vast province was reported last month to have declared its independence and to have named Nicholas as its Emperor.

EFFECT ON BOLSHEVIKI NOT EVEN SURMISED

The effect of the escape of former Emperor Nicholas upon Bolshevik plans for the future course of Russia could scarcely even be surmised, so enigmatic in many ways has been the recent course of the Lenin-Trotsky government in Petrograd, which now appears to be getting the upper hand in many parts of the country outside the northern centers, overcoming opposition of the more conservative elements. Some English correspondents in Petrograd, indeed, have lately come to take the view that the Bolshevik leaders were planning eventually to put a monarchial form of government in force after they had established their sway by drastic measures, coupled with the hold on the proletariat through the popularity of their land reform and peace measures.

The Russo-German peace negotiations are reported proceeding apace. A German official announcement says the conditions and draft of a "treaty" have been formulated, the discussions having been put over from Friday to Saturday, however, as the Russian delegates desired to obtain supplementary instructions from their government. Whether the word "treaty" refers to a formal peace treaty or merely to the armistice agreement that had been pending is clear from the German announcement.

ITALIAN LINE INTACT AND HOLDING WELL

The Italian front remains the only major field of military operations in which there is more than local activity on the part of the infantry. The Italian line, although almost ceaselessly assailed in the mountain regions, is still intact and holding well, except for a small recession here and there forced at the cost of extremely heavy casualties on the part of the Austro-German invaders. Berlin claims the taking of more than 3,000 prisoners in the fighting of the last few days and the repulse of Italian counterattacks on positions won by the Teutons.

The Franco-Belgian front is inactive, except for local fighting, mostly due to German thrusts, and there, delivered with the seeming intention of keeping the Anglo-French command guessing as to the enemy intentions.

In Palestine the British have scored a further advance northeast of Jerusalem.

In making known the sinking of two more Norwegian steamers, the Norwegian government announces that 5,000 Norwegian sailors have been lost during the war.

Two airships of the nonrigid type have been lost by the British, one of which was sunk by a seaplane in the North Sea while on patrol, and the other being destroyed because of engine trouble. The British Admiralty also announces the sinking of a British destroyer through a collision, all but two of those on board being saved.

OFFICIAL DENIAL MADE THAT NICHOLAS HAS ESCAPED

(By Associated Press)
PETROGRAD, December 15.—Former Emperor Nicholas of Russia has escaped from his confinement at Tobolsk, according to advices received to-day at the Smolny Institute, the Bolshevik headquarters.

Christmas in a Dugout; Santa Claus in War Time

Another Christmas and hundreds of thousands of our own American boys may be in the camps and trenches of France or wherever else in Europe the fate of battle may take them. Even now thousands of them are in the battle line, and while their eyes are toward the Hun, their hearts are turning back to their homes in the United States and are with us in this sacred season. Would you know what a Christmas in the trenches is like? Then read the next story by Sergeant Arthur Guy Empey. This American boy, who served seventeen months in France before this country entered the war, is writing a series of twelve stories for The Times-Dispatch, descriptive of the actual everyday life of the soldier. In his next story he will tell how Christmas was spent and how Santa Claus was cut off from his base of supplies. There are thrills, pathos and humor in his simple, forceful narrative. Sergeant Empey's next story will be printed in The Times-Dispatch on Saturday, December 22. Read it.

Trucks—D-E Worm Drive, Immediate deliveries. All sizes. Continental Motors. Kline Kar Sales Co., Inc. 322 West Broad.